

House File 581 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 581
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 385)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act concerning the protection of students from concussions
2 and other brain injuries.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **280.13C Brain injury policies.**

2 1. *a.* The board of directors of each public school district
3 and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall
4 work in concert with the Iowa high school athletic association
5 and the Iowa girls high school athletic union to distribute
6 guidelines and other pertinent information and forms to inform
7 and educate coaches, students, and the parents and guardians
8 of students of the risks, signs, symptoms, and behaviors
9 consistent with a concussion or brain injury, including the
10 danger of continuing to participate in athletic activities
11 after suffering a concussion or brain injury.

12 *b.* Annually, each school district and nonpublic school
13 shall provide to the parent or guardian of each student a
14 concussion and brain injury information sheet. The student
15 and the student's parent or guardian shall sign and return
16 the concussion and brain injury information sheet to the
17 student's school prior to the student's participation in any
18 extracurricular interscholastic athletic activity for grades
19 seven through twelve.

20 2. If a student's coach or contest official observes signs,
21 symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain
22 injury in an interscholastic athletic practice or game, the
23 student shall be immediately removed from participation.

24 3. *a.* A student who has been removed from participation
25 shall not recommence such participation until the student has
26 been evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in
27 the evaluation and management of concussions and other brain
28 injuries and the student has received written clearance to
29 return to participation from the health care provider.

30 *b.* For the purposes of this section, a "*licensed health care*
31 *provider*" means a physician, physician assistant, chiropractor,
32 advanced registered nurse practitioner, nurse, or athletic
33 trainer licensed by a board designated under section 147.13.

34 4. The board of directors of each public school district and
35 the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall adopt

1 rules and procedures necessary to carry out the requirements of
2 this section.

3 EXPLANATION

4 This bill directs the board of directors of each public
5 school district and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic
6 school to work in concert with the Iowa high school athletic
7 association and the Iowa girls high school athletic union
8 to distribute guidelines and other pertinent information
9 and forms to inform and educate coaches, students, and
10 parents and guardians of students of the risks, signs,
11 symptoms, and behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain
12 injury, including the danger of continuing to participate
13 in athletic activities after a concussion or brain injury.
14 The bill requires school districts and nonpublic schools to
15 annually provide the parent or guardian of a student with a
16 concussion and brain injury information sheet which must be
17 signed and returned before the student may participate in an
18 extracurricular interscholastic athletic activity for grades
19 seven through 12.

20 The bill provides that if a student's coach or contest
21 official observes signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent
22 with a concussion or brain injury in an interscholastic
23 athletic practice or game, the student must be removed from
24 participation. The bill provides that a student removed from
25 participation shall not recommence participation until the
26 student has been evaluated by a licensed health care provider,
27 defined as a physician, physician assistant, chiropractor,
28 advanced registered nurse practitioner, nurse, or athletic
29 trainer licensed by a board designated under Code section
30 147.13, trained in the evaluation and management of concussions
31 and other head injuries and received written clearance to
32 return to play.

33 The bill directs the board of directors of each school
34 district and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school
35 to adopt rules and procedures necessary to carry out the

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1 requirements of the bill.